

SESSION 9

Experiencing Turbulence

GOD DEFEATS A SORCERER

Bible Text



Acts 13:4-12

Session Key Verse

The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

Session Goals

Today each child will—

-  learn how Paul was used of God to overcome Elymas the sorcerer
-  believe that God is greater than Satan

There should be no doubt of the need for Christians to be used of God to overcome Satan's works. The news media reports the increase in witchcraft and occultic activities, such as animal sacrifices and child molestation. Satan has also expanded his attacks on the body of believers.

Sometimes when believers are reminded of Satan's deeds, they lose heart. Yet we, as children of the almighty God, have no reason to lose heart. God has promised us we are "more than conquerors" and "greater is he that is in us." God wants to use us to defeat the enemy's works.

If we are going to defeat the works of the enemy, however, we must be spiritually fit by having a strong relationship with Jesus through prayer, Bible study, faithful church attendance, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Pray for the children in your group to be committed to keeping a strong relationship with Jesus so they can thwart Satan's work and withstand his attacks. Also pray the children will be convinced that God is more powerful than the devil.

Unit Key Verse

Go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19,20



Explorer Orientation

OPENING ACTIVITY AND PRAISE

Use The Word

(5-10 minutes)

Divide the group into teams of 8-10 children. Make sure each child has a Bible.

Missionaries must know the Bible and how to use it to win people to Jesus. Today we are going to check some of our skills in using the Bible and review some Scriptures that have been used in our study about missions. Hold your Bible out in front of you with it completely closed. I will read the Scripture. Then when I say "Go," I want you to find the verse and read it. The team with the first person to read the verse gets 5 points. If you attempt to read it, but you have the wrong verse, a member of the other team will be able to read the verse and win 5 points. Play until one team has earned 50 points.

Some suggested verses: 2 Corinthians 1:11; Colossians 4:2-4; Matthew 28:19,20; John 20:21; Matthew 18:18-20; Acts 10:38; Philippians 2:8,9, or whatever part of the Scriptures from this unit you wish to emphasize.

Giving Time

(3 minutes)

Allow the children to participate in a time of giving to the Lord. You might want them to give an offering or participate individually in a special ministry.

Praise

(10 minutes)

Use the following suggested song from the Young Explorers cassette or CD: "I Will Pray." Add songs of your own choosing for leading the children in a time of praise. Lead in prayer for this week's study.



Exploring Session Goals

PRE-BIBLE LESSON ACTIVITIES

Announcements And Skit

(5 minutes)

Give announcements and any guidelines you have for the children to follow during this time. There is no skit provided for this session.

Items Needed

- Bible (one for each child)
- List of verses

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Items Needed

- Young Explorers music CD or cassette

Items Needed

- Mirror
- Permanent (alcohol-based) marker
- Five glasses
- Water (to fill four glasses)
- Rubbing alcohol
- Five labels
- Paper towels

Fighting Satan

(5 minutes)

Prepare by using the marker to print the word "Satan" on the mirror. Fill four glasses with water. Put one of these labels on each glass: "Ignore," "Ask," "Put Up With," "Own Power." Fill the fifth glass with rubbing alcohol and label it "God." Display the glasses in the order they are discussed below. Place the mirror upright behind them.

Satan likes to bother us when we are trying to serve God. He tries to tempt us to sin and he wants us to lose our trust in God. Do you think we can conquer Satan by ignoring him? Let's see what happens when we ignore Satan. Dampen towel in glass labeled "Ignore" and try to wipe off the writing on the mirror. **The writing remains. Ignoring Satan doesn't defeat him. He is still there, tempting and tricking us.**

Do you think we can conquer Satan by asking him to leave us alone? Dampen towel in the "Ask" glass and try to erase writing. **No, asking Satan to leave us alone does not defeat him. He continues to try to discourage us and to trick us into believing his lies.**

Do you think we can conquer Satan by just putting up with him? Dampen towel in "Put Up With" glass and try to remove writing. **We can put up with Satan and the evil he does, but that won't defeat him. It doesn't work to just tolerate him. He is still there and his evil becomes worse as we ignore him, reason with him, or tolerate him. His evil grows worse around us.**

Do you think we are strong enough to conquer Satan ourselves? Dampen towel in glass labeled "Own Power" and try to wipe off words. **Our own power cannot conquer Satan either. He can defeat us.**

What is the only power that can conquer Satan? Then dampen towel in the glass labeled "God" and wipe off the words on the mirror. The alcohol will dissolve the permanent ink. **Just as the liquid in this glass is the only one that erased the word Satan, only God's power can defeat Satan.**

→ ⊙ **God desires for us to use His mighty power to defeat Satan. We can't fight the devil by ourselves. We need God's power within us to win against Satan. Today's lesson shows how Paul relied on God's power to defeat Satan.**



Exploring The Word

BIBLE LESSON

(10 minutes)

- Acts 13:4-12

1. Satan Works Against Paul

Which is more powerful, a warlock (male witch) or a Spirit-filled Christian? Listen and

Items Needed

- Bible
- Four adult volunteers (optional, use puppets instead)

you will find out. Two weeks ago we learned how Paul accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Last week we learned how Paul traveled to many places to tell others about Jesus. This week we will learn about something that happened on Paul's first missionary trip.

Paul's first missionary trip began when God told Paul and Barnabas to leave their home church and be missionaries to other countries. Paul, Barnabas, and a helper named John Mark, sailed to the island of Cyprus. When Paul and Barnabas got to Cyprus, they found a Jewish synagogue in the town of Salamis and began to teach about Jesus.

What is a synagogue? It is a place like our church today, except that the people there only believed in God the Father, not Jesus, God's Son. When Paul and his helpers finished teaching in the synagogue in Salamis, they traveled to the next synagogue. Their plan was to preach in every synagogue on the island, and that is what they did. They spent a lot of time convincing people to believe in Jesus as Savior.

At the other end of the island was the town of Paphos, which was the capital where the governor named Sergius Paulus lived. When he heard about Paul and Barnabas and their preaching, he asked them to come and tell him what they were preaching. (Sergius enters and waves for Paul and Barnabas to come his direction. Paul and Barnabas enter from opposite side.)

The Bible tells us Sergius Paulus was an intelligent and wise man. He wanted to hear about Jesus. But Sergius Paulus had an adviser who was not a good man. (Elymas enters and stands by Sergius.) This adviser didn't want him to hear about Jesus. His name was Elymas, which means "sorcerer." He had that name because he was a sorcerer and a false prophet. He claimed his power was from God, but he was really using Satan's power.



2. God Uses Paul To Overcome Elymas The Sorcerer

Because Elymas served Satan, he didn't want the governor to hear about Jesus. Elymas tried to stop him from believing the good news about Jesus. (Paul and Barnabas characters mime telling Sergius about Jesus. Sergius looks interested. Then Elymas stands in between them and waves his arms to distract Sergius from paying attention.) The situation was serious. One of Satan's followers was trying to stop someone from learning about God.

→☉ But who is more powerful than Satan? God is! Since God wanted to defeat Satan's power in Elymas, God gave Paul power through the Holy Spirit to defeat him. Paul stared right at Elymas and rebuked him. (Volunteer playing Paul says the following:) "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery."

Then Paul told God's punishment for Elymas. (Paul gives pronouncement: "You are going to be blind for a time." Elymas actor puts his hands to his eyes and rubs them furiously, and stumbles →☉ around, using his arms to "see" with.) Elymas immediately became blind. God's power is definitely greater than Satan's!

When the governor saw what the power of God had done to Elymas, he immediately believed in Jesus. (Sergius exclaims, "I believe!") He knew what Paul was saying about Jesus

must be true. Because of God's power, Satan's works were defeated and Sergius Paulus came to believe in Jesus. (Sergius shakes Paul's and Barnabas' hands. Then all actors exit.)

3. The Key To Overcoming Satan

God's power is always greater than Satan's. God's power in a Spirit-filled Christian is stronger than any of Satan's power. Each of us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can defeat the works of Satan, just as Paul did.

In order to defeat Satan we must be faithful to keep close to Jesus. God used Paul —→ ⊙ because Paul was keeping a close relationship with Him. Now can we stay close to God? Through daily Bible reading and prayer, going to church, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, we will have God's power to defeat Satan when he tries to tempt us and trick us into doing wrong.



Responding To The Word

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Prayer

(10 minutes)

Sing a few worship choruses to begin this part of the session.

God's power is available for each of you to win over Satan's tricks and temptations. One of his tricks is to tell people they don't need God or forgiveness. He tells people to just be like those around them. He tries to keep them from learning that only by receiving forgiveness from God can a person go to heaven. If Satan has told you these lies, you can defeat

—→ ⊙ him today by accepting Jesus as your Savior. Jesus loves you so much He died for your sins. He wants only what is good for you. If you want to ask forgiveness for your sins, come and stand before me. If you are facing problems or temptations and you want —→ ⊙ God to help you win over Satan, raise your hand so I can pray for you. As you daily obey God and live for Him, His power will help you beat Satan.

Pray individually for those who are seeking salvation. Use the information on page 8 to help you show the children how and why they must be saved.

—→ ⊙ Pray for the children who are saved that God will give them the desire and determination to defeat Satan by doing right, by living for God every day in what they do and say.

Sign Language Verse

(10 minutes)

Prepare by memorizing the sign language for the key verse.

—→ ⊙ Isn't it great that we don't have to be defeated by Satan? Sometimes, when

Items Needed

- Bible
- Key verse on transparency or chalkboard

we think of Satan attacking us or our friends or family, we start to get scared. We must remind ourselves that Satan's power can never compare with the power God has. If we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, we have God's power at work in us to defeat Satan! The devil doesn't stand a chance against the power of God! As today's key verse says, "The one who is in you (God) is greater than the one who is in the world (Satan)," 1 John 4:4.

Repeat the verse with the group several times, pointing to each word as it is said.

Last week we talked about sharing the gospel with people who are different from us in how they look, how they live, and how much money they have. The hearing impaired is another group that is different from us. Because of an accident or a birth defect, they cannot hear. If they cannot hear, how do they talk with other people? They use sign language. We're going to learn today's key verse in sign language. Illustrate one word at a time. Allow the children to practice a word several times before going on to the next word. After the children accomplish the verse, call on a few at a time to come to the front and quote the verse as well as signing it.

→ ⊙ Remember, God's power is greater than Satan's power!

Stabilizing Turbulence

(5 minutes)

Prepare as follows. In large capital letters across the top of the posterboard (long side), print "TURBULENCE." Across the bottom in all caps, print "STABILIZE TURBULENCE." Cut four black paper levers, identical in size. Attach the levers with brads an equal distance apart between the titles. Make sure all levers are pointing at "turbulence" at the beginning of the segment. Decorate the posterboard with other gauges so it gives the appearance of being part of a flight panel.

I want each of you to pretend you are a pilot flying an airplane. You enter into some turbulence, or rough air. The whole plane shakes. Turbulence is a common thing for a plane to go through. Yet it could be dangerous if a pilot doesn't do things he knows he should do to stabilize or handle, the turbulence.

We can have turbulence in our lives as well. It is a common thing for Satan to bring his turbulence into our lives and try to shake us up. He wants us to stop sharing the gospel and quit living for God. His attacks can be dangerous if we don't do what we know are the right things to do.

For air turbulence, you as a pilot would adjust the controls of the plane to stabilize it. For → ⊙ turbulence in life, you as a Christian have four levers on your flight panel. There are four things we should do to be able to handle, or stabilize, the turbulence that Satan sends.

1. We must pray daily. Pull down Lever 1 so it points at "stabilize turbulence."
2. We must also study the Bible daily. Pull down Lever 2. Read the Bible, think about it, and memorize it. We must also our best to obey what the Bible says.
3. Attend church regularly. Pull down Lever 3. It's important to worship together and learn about God together.



Items Needed

- Light-colored posterboard
- Black construction paper
- Scissors
- Marker
- Five brads

4. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Pull down Lever 4. We also need the special power that comes from being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

→◎ If we are careful to do these things, we will be prepared for whatever turbulence Satan may send our way.

Bible Lesson Review

(5-7 minutes)

(For a smaller group, you will need one question and answer for each child in your group. For larger groups, spread out answer cards at random through the group.)

Hand out the answer cards. Instruct the children to stand when the question that fits their answer is read. Read the questions, letting the children stand when they hear the question that corresponds to their answer card. Have the child standing read the answer.

Suggested answers to use are Paul, sorcerer, power, Holy Spirit, blind, God, governor, Elymas, Sergius Paulus, synagogue, believed, defeated, Cyprus, and Paphos.



Applying The Word

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Baking Soda Power

(5 minutes)

Prepare ahead of time by putting the baking soda in the bottle.

Display the bottle. **What causes a volcano to erupt? Pressure inside the earth pushes lava and/or hot gases out through the earth's surface, and this is a volcanic eruption. A volcanic eruption is very powerful.**

Quickly pour vinegar into the bottle and pull the balloon over the top. **The vinegar and soda will create a gas that will inflate the balloon. What made this balloon inflate? Is there something inside the bottle that has the power to inflate things?** Lead the children to realize the balloon inflated because of a force inside the bottle.

We have a source of power much stronger than what is in this bottle, and much stronger
→◎ **than even a volcano. Our source of power is God. What is more powerful than God? Of course, nothing is. Satan is another power in our world, but God is much more powerful than Satan.**

Life Illustrations

(5 minutes)

Before the session, obtain from your pastor letters from missionaries your church supports. Make photocopies. Then read the letters, highlighting examples of Satan attacking the missionaries through illness, problems, or any mention of servants of Satan.

Items Needed

- Questions from lesson with one-word answers
- Cards with the answers printed on them

Items Needed

- Plastic 2-liter bottle
- Three table-spoons of baking soda
- Glass of vinegar
- Balloon

Items Needed

- Copies of several missionary letters

How soon did Satan attack Paul after Paul became a missionary? On his first missionary trip. When someone works for God, Satan tries to discourage, bother, or stop the person completely from telling people about Jesus. Satan works against missionaries today just as he did in Bible times.

Our church supports several missionaries. I borrowed some missionary letters from our pastor. These missionaries have some amazing things to tell. Listen closely. Tell whom each letter is from. Read enough of each letter to be understandable, making sure to read the highlighted portions.

Did you notice something common to all these letters? I did. Not only does Satan work today as he did in Bible times, but God still works today through missionaries and other →◎ believers to overcome Satan! Satan is being defeated by God's power through believers who are close to God and full of the Holy Spirit!

God's Power Pop-Up

(5 minutes)

Divide the group into two teams. God's Word often mentions His awesome power. We are going to play God's Power Pop-up with some of those verses. I will give a Scripture reference and the first person to find it will stand and read the verse to the group. If he reads the correct verse, his team will receive one point.

Some suggested verses: Job 36:22; Psalm 66:3; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Psalm 147:5; Romans 1:20; and Jeremiah 10:12.

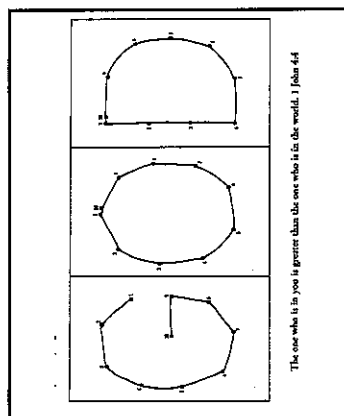
Activity Sheets

(10 minutes)

See page 4 for suggestions on how to use Activity Sheets, pages 9-1 to 9-3.

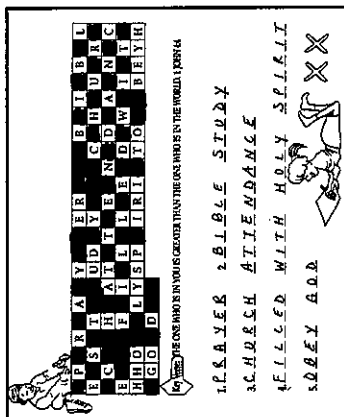
"Who Is Most Powerful?"

Session 9, page 1



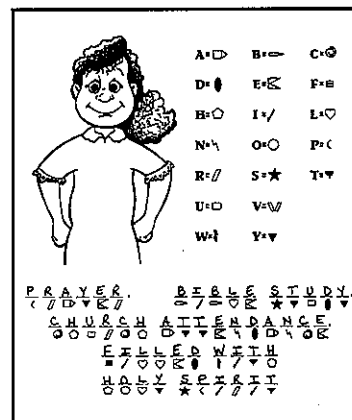
"Letter Cross Out"

Session 9, page 2



"Spiritual Strength"

Session 9, page 3



Items Needed

- Bibles
- List of verses that mention God's power

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Items Needed

- Copies of Activity Sheets 9-1 to 9-3
- Pencils